

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling the temperature of pressurized air supplied from a source thereof, including the steps of passing the pressurized air through a heat exchanger wherein it is in heat-exchange relationship with coolant air, flow of the coolant air through the heat exchanger being caused to take place by an ejector device using some of the pressurized air, the method including controlling the supply of the pressurized air to the ejector device in accordance with the temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger.

2. A method according to claim 1 including sensing the temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger, comparing such sensed temperature with a desired temperature, and providing a control signal to cause the supply of the pressurized air to the ejector device to be varied when the sensed temperature deviates from the desired value.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the method includes directing the pressurized air from the heat exchanger to a downstream system which is at least one of an air conditioning system for providing conditioned air, and a system for providing a supply of breathable air.

4. A method according to claim 3 which is performed in an aircraft.

5. Apparatus for controlling the temperature of pressurized air supplied from a source thereof, including a heat exchanger through which the pressurized air is passed and brought into heat exchange relationship with coolant air, an ejector device supplied with some of the pressurized air and operable to induce flow of the coolant air through the heat exchanger, a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger, and a controller operable to control the supply of the pressurized air to the ejector device in accordance with the sensed temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the controller is operable to compare the sensed temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger with a desired temperature, and to provide a control signal to control the supply of pressurized air to the ejector device in accordance with deviation of the temperature of the pressurized air from a desired value.

7. Apparatus according to claim 5 including a modulating valve disposed in a conduit supplying the pressurized air to the ejector device and receiving the control signal from the controller.

8. An aircraft having apparatus for controlling the temperature of pressurized air supplied from a source thereof, including a heat exchanger through which the pressurized air is passed and brought into heat exchange relationship with coolant air, an ejector device supplied with some of the pressurized air and operable to induce flow of the coolant air through the heat exchanger, a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger, and a controller operable to control the supply of the pressurized air to the ejector device in accordance with the sensed temperature of the pressurized air downstream of the heat exchanger.